

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1, 3, 8-9 and 15-17 are currently pending in the application. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended with subject matter from cancelled claim 5. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Mancuso for conducting a telephone interview with Applicants' representative on April 23, 2009. During the interview, Examiner Mancuso and Applicants' representative discussed the independent claims, the applied reference, and the grounds of rejection. The substance of the interview is reflected by the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102

At page 3, paragraph 3 of the Office Action claims 1, 3, 5, 8-9 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number (USPN) 6768457 (Lindenmeier). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on the above amendments, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 8-9 and 15-17 recite novel features not shown by the cited references. Further, Applicant submits that the above-recited novel features provide new and unexpected results not recognized by the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references.

It is believed that claims 1, 3, 8-9 and 15-17 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-9338 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to deposit account 50-4238.

Respectfully submitted,

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